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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

Applicant: MERKEL, W., et al

Serial No.: 09/734,898

Filed: December 12, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

February 27, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminarily to the issuance of an Office Action in the above
identified application, please amend the application as follows:

**BOX NON-FEE
AMENDMENT**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
deposited with the United States Postal Service
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C. 20231.
On 2/28/01
[Signature]